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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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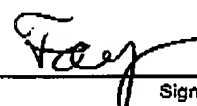
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<b>PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW</b>		Docket Number (Optional) 40R920000770 US/	
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		First Named Inventor Au et al.	
		Art Unit 3627	Examiner RONALD LANEAU
Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.			
This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.			
The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.			
I am the		 Signature THEODORE D. FAY III Typed or printed name	
<input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor. <input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)		972 385 8777 Telephone number	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. Registration number <u>48,504</u>		DECEMBER 27, 2005 Date	
<input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____			
NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.			
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This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**CENTRAL FAX CENTER****DEC 27 2005****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re application: **Au et al.**Serial No.: **09/859,705**Filed: **May 17, 2001**For: **Method and Apparatus for a  
Distributed Web Commerce System**§  
§  
§ **Group Art Unit: 3627**  
§  
§ **Examiner: Laneau, Ronald**  
§  
§ **Attorney Docket No.: YOR920000770US1**  
§  
§**Certificate of Transmission Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**I hereby certify this correspondence is being transmitted via  
facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on  
December 27, 2005.

By:

  
Louise FayMail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**REASONS IN SUPPORT OF APPLICANTS' PRE-APPEAL  
BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Sir:

This document is submitted in support of the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed on December 27, 2005, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 41.31 and with the rules set out in the OG of July 12, 2005 for the New Appeal Brief Conference Pilot Program.

No fees are believed to be required. If, however, any fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees which may be required to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

### REMARKS

Applicants hereby request a Pre-Appeal Brief Review (hereinafter "Request") of the claims presented as of the non-final office action mailed September 28, 2005. The Request is provided herewith in accordance with the rules set out in the OG dated July 12, 2005. A pre-appeal brief review is needed because the rejections are clearly in error and will be overturned on appeal. In addition, an appeal is needed because the examiner continues to reject the claims on an incorrect basis. Thus, Applicants can only advance this application by appealing the claims.

The examiner rejects claims 1-15 and 32-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Westrope* (U.S. Patent 5,721,832) in view of *Olson*, (U.S. Patent 6,901,481).

Applicants address the rejection of claim 1. Claim 1 is as follows:

1. (Original) A method in a primary data processing system for managing a catalog, the method comprising:
  - sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems located in a network data processing system;
  - allocating inventory associated with the catalog to the plurality of secondary data processing systems;
  - receiving an order from one of the plurality of secondary data processing systems; and
  - processing the order, in response to receiving the order.

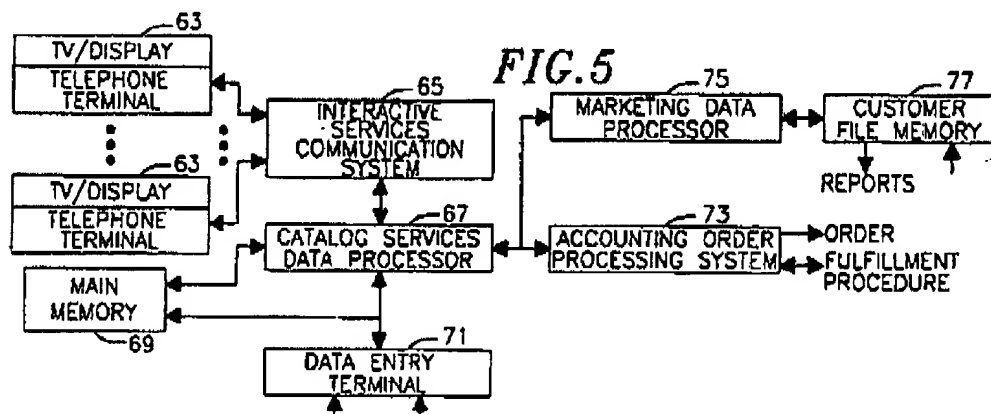
Regarding claim 1, the examiner asserts in relevant part that:

As per claims 1, 3, 8, 11-15, 32-35 and 42-46, *Westrope et al.* teach a method in a primary data processing system (catalog data processor 67) for managing a catalog (col. 7, lines 13-15), method comprising: sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing system located in a network data processing system (marketing data processor 75, accounting processor 73); receiving an order from one of the plurality of secondary data processing systems (col. 7, lines 23-26); and processing the order, in response to receiving the order (col. 7, lines 28-30). *Westrope* does not disclose allocating the inventory but *Olson* discloses allocating inventory associated with a catalog that can be sent to the plurality of secondary data processing systems of *Westrope* (col. 10, lines 36-39).

Office Action dated September 28, 2005, pp. 2-3. Contrary to the examiner's assertions, *Westrope* does not teach or suggest sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems, as claimed.

*Olson* is devoid of disclosure in this regard. For this reason, the proposed combination does not teach all of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, the examiner has failed to state a *prima facie* obviousness rejection against claim 1.

Regarding the step of sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems, the examiner states, as shown above, that marketing processor 75 and accounting processor 73 are a plurality of secondary data processing systems used in the claimed manner. However, the examiner is manifestly incorrect, as has been pointed out to the examiner in prior office action responses. The examiner maintains the rejections under the assertion that, "...*Westrope* in fact disclose a plurality of secondary data (marketing data processor 75, accounting data processor 73) seen in fig. 5." Office action of April 21, 2005. In the current office action, the examiner responds by stating, "Contrary to Applicant's arguments, the catalog services data processor (fig. 5, 67) is coupled to the secondary data processing systems (marketing data processor and accounting data processor) so that the catalog and user information can be sent or transmitted to the secondary data processing systems." Office action of September 28, 2005. However, the examiner's characterization of *Westrope* continues to be clearly incorrect. Figure 5 of *Westrope* is as follows:



The text related to figure 5 states, in relevant part:

**The electronic catalog data would be entered via data terminal 71 and stored in selectable memory locations in the main memory 69. Preferably applicants' system would include electronic catalog data for a plurality of different catalogs from different companies.**

...

**If a user elects to order a specific product or service, this is done under menu control at a user terminal and the menu would prompt the user to enter the appropriate order data codes via, for example, a touchtone telephone pad on the user terminal 63. *In response to receipt of such user order data codes, the catalog data processing signals the accounting and order processor 73, which is similar in function and structure to the order and accounting processor of FIGS. 1 and 3 to exercise the appropriate order processing requests to clear the customer/user's financial payment authorization and initiate the order fulfillment procedure to have the ordered products assembled and mailed to the address directed by the user/customer for that particular transaction. As herein above described in conjunction with FIGS. 1 and 3, the catalog data processor 67 in response to a customer/user order signals the marketing data processor 75, which is similar in structure and function to the marketing data processor described above in connection with FIGS. 1 and 4, to generate, unless the customer does not so authorize, customer profile marketing data in file 77 as described in FIGS. 6, 7 and 8. Accounting and order processor 73, which is structurally and functionally equivalent to the accounting and order processor described in FIGS. 1 and 3, initiates various accounting, financial payment authorization and/or assembly and shipping procedures as described in conjunction with FIGS. 6, 7 and 8. Accounting and order processor 73 as illustrated in FIG. 8 also in response to a command from the central data processor 67 initiates a software or program routine procedure to generate commission data for accumulating a commission file entry for the individual host hotel or site of the interactive catalog subsystem from which a particular order originated.***

*Westrope*, col. 6, l. 58 through col. 7, l. 65. (Emphasis in italics to show portions relevant to the present argument; emphasis in bold to show portions cited by the examiner.)

Figure 5 and the accompanying text in *Westrope* do not teach sending a catalog and user information to a plurality of secondary data processing systems, as recited in claim 1. Even if the accounting order processing processor (73) and the marketing data processor (75) could be construed as a plurality of secondary data processing systems as claimed, a point that Applicants do not concede, *Westrope* does not show sending a catalog and user information to either system. Regarding the former system, *Westrope* sends only a signal to the accounting order processing processor 73 to process the customer financial data and customer ordering data. *Westrope*, col. 7, ll. 28-36 (quoted above). None of the data sent to system 73 shows or suggests a catalog and user

information as recited in claim 1. No teaching, suggestion, or incentive exists to send the claimed information to system 73 because that information already exists and has been used as intended by the catalog services data processor 67.

Regarding the latter system, *Westrope* only sends a signal to the marketing data processor 75 to generate the customer profile marketing data. *Westrope*, col. 7, ll. 36-44 (quoted above). None of the data sent to processor 75 shows or suggests a catalog and user information as claimed. No teaching, suggestion, or incentive exists to send the claimed information to processor 75 because that information already exists and has been used as intended by catalog services data processor 67. Thus, neither of the systems to which the examiner refers is sent a catalog and user information in the manner claimed. Additionally, neither system is a secondary data processing system, as claimed. Furthermore, *Olson* does not show or suggest anything that would cure the lack of disclosure in *Westrope* in this regard. Hence, the cited references do not show or suggest all of the claimed features as asserted by the examiner and the proposed combination does not result in the invention of claim 1. Accordingly, the examiner clearly has failed to state a *prima facie* obviousness rejection against claim 1.

The remaining rejections are also clearly incorrect because they rely on the same incorrect interpretation of *Westrope*. Because the examiner clearly has failed to state a *prima facie* obviousness rejection against claim 1 due to the deficiencies in *Westrope*, the examiner has also clearly failed to state a *prima facie* obviousness rejection against the remaining claims as well. In the light that no prior art has been shown to render the claims anticipated or obvious, Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

DATE: December 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Fay

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